

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

11 September 1987

Mr. R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.
Editor in Chief (for Life)
The American Spectator
1101 N. Highland
P.O. Box 10448
Arlington, VA 22210

Dear Bob:

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to your special holiday book section. My favorites for the year are as follows:

- Utopia in Power: The History of the Soviet Union from 1917 to the Present, by Mikhail Heller and Aleksandr M. Nekrich. (Summit Books, 1986). A compelling study of the Soviet Union by two emigre historians who, with unique sources and insight, freshly examine the nature of the Soviet state and the role of the West in helping to sustain it. It provides critical perspective on the perennially topical question: can the Soviet Union overcome its internal crisis? This is the best history of the Soviet Union I have read.
- Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization and the Terror-Famine, by Robert Conquest. (Oxford University Press, 1986). A history of the world's most staggering genocidal campaign, in which at least 14 million peasants perished. A new look at how a central element of the present Soviet system was established, and the legacy.
- Commander in Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, His Lieutenants and Their War, by Eric Larrabee. (Harper & Row, 1987). How Roosevelt selected his senior commanders and, together, they brought the nation to victory. A reminder of the importance of senior military officers willing "to speak truth to power" and rich in imagination, boldness, and savvy on battlefields at home and abroad.



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-- For sheer pleasure, a rereading of Catherine Drinker Bowen's Miracle at Philadelphia, a leap back to college days with a new version of Sir Thomas Malory's Le Morte Darthur, and an assortment of spy novels (some masquerading as non-fiction).

This is probably too much for you to use but you can pick and choose at your discretion. You may also wish to improve my prose. And if these submissions from a battered bureaucrat fall below the intellectual threshold of your other contributors, you can shred the whole thing. With respect to how I would like to be identified, picking up from the signature block in your letter I am rather attracted to "Deputy Director in Chief for Life". However, Becky would divorce me if she thought this would go on forever. I also should protect the sensibilities of the Congress and not discourage the one or two people in America who foolishly want my job. Accordingly, you probably should just refer to me simply as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence or as CIA Deputy Director.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to contribute. I will be in touch after returning from an overseas trip about breaking bread together.

Warm regards.

Robert M. Gates

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THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR

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20 August 1987

Mr. Robert Gates
Central Intelligence
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Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bob:

For going on twelve years now, our December issues have featured holiday book recommendations from people whose work we have found interesting. Because our year-end issue is something of a gala celebration this time--it marks our twentieth year of publishing--we are mustering our list of worthies rather early. Would you ignore the summer heat for a few moments, set your mind to the holidays, and favor our enlightened customers with a contribution to this year's special holiday book section? You need only recommend three to five books--whether old, new, forgotten, or teetering at the pinnacle of bestsellerdom--along with a sentence or two about what makes each particular commendable.

I look forward to hearing from you by September 14 and extend our readers' gratitude, and my own.

Yours faithfully,

R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief-for-Life

RET/jh

P.S. If you agree to contribute, please let us know how you would like to be identified, superlatives and all.

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